MEMPHIS
HERITAGE
TRAIL
EXPERIENCE THE AFRICAN AMERICAN JOURNEY

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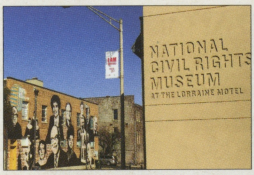
The Memphis Heritage Trail recognizes the significant contributions of African Americans who helped shape the rich business, cultural, and musical heritage of Memphis, Tennessee. The borders are Beale Street, Main Street, Crump Boulevard, and Walnut Street, but the reach is far wider. The Memphis Heritage Trail project revitalizes and reinvigorates some of our city's most historically important communities while highlighting the unprecedented achievements of the African Americans who built them.

Memphis has played a nationally significant role in the Civil Rights Movement, from the era of Reconstruction to the events of the 1960s and 1970s. You can still see many of the landmarks associated with events that changed America forever by taking the Civil Rights Historic Loop.

Be inspired and entertained by the stories of Memphis entrepreneurs and Memphis musicians who worked and lived in the Business-Entertainment and Commerce Historic Loops. From this part of the city came sounds and ideas that also reshaped our history and culture.

As you visit the many historic sites along the trail, please respect private property rights. Some properties can be viewed only from the sidewalks. Do not enter private property without permission.

CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORIC LOOP



1. National Civil Rights Museum

450 Mulberry Street

www.civilrightsmuseum.org
Monday–Sunday; closed on Tuesday.
Admission charged.

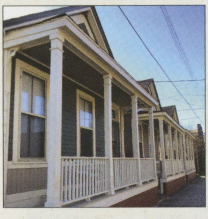
When the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came to Memphis to assist with the Sanitation Workers Strike in 1968, he lodged at the Lorraine Motel, a modern motor lodge that served African American patrons. Dr. King was standing on the second-floor balcony when he was assassinated in April 1968. That site is now preserved and interpreted within the National Civil Rights Museum. Historic collections, oral histories, and interactive exhibits tell the long story of the American Civil Rights Movement, from early resistance to enslavement and through the chaotic events of the 1960s. The museum is a major international destination shaping understanding of not only the Civil Rights Movement but also contemporary global issues of human and civil rights.

2. Blues Hall of Fame/Blues Foundation

421 S. Main Street

www.blues.org
Open daily. Admission charged.

Memphis is a center for blues music. The Hall of Fame highlights the stories and music of over 400 inductees. Original artifacts, interactive galleries, and searchable databases expose visitors to the impact blues music and culture had on Memphis, the nation, and the Civil Rights Movement.



3. Historic Shotgun Houses

372, 376, 378 Mulberry Street

Private. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

These three c. 1890 houses are stylish examples of modest homes that were part of an ethnically mixed neighborhood before the establishment of nearby railroad terminals transformed this area into an increasingly segregated commercial district with African American businesses on Mulberry Street and their white counterparts on South Main (parallel to Mulberry). The shotgun houses and the two tenement buildings that form an "L" around them housed many of the African American workers who helped sustain the entire district's businesses.

4. WLOK Radio Station

363 S. Second Street

www.WLOK.com
Private. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

WLOK, one of the early Memphis stations that catered to an African American audience, has operated from this building since 1958. In 1970, employees went on strike for 10 days to demand better pay and work conditions from white management, resulting in the station hiring its first African American station manager, Harvey Lynch. This shift led to greater community involvement and close ties with the NAACP. The station popularized local musicians, while close ties with Stax Records kept DJs informed of new R&B and

(continued)

soul sounds. The station also aired gospel shows and today is a leading gospel station in the Memphis area.

5. Chisca Plaza Development

Corner of S. Main Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue

Lyfe Kitchen Restaurant, open daily.
Private residences. View from exterior.

The Chisca Hotel became a symbol of integration when African Americans and whites formed the Good Local Government League here in 1954. In the 1970s, a local businessman donated the building to the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) as an incentive to keep the economic impact of the COGIC yearly convention in Memphis. This multimillion-dollar acquisition expanded African American influence in downtown Memphis and reflected the political and economic clout of the COGIC members, who played an integral role in the local fight for civil rights. COGIC based their headquarters here until the 1990s. It has since been redeveloped into residential and commercial space.

6. Baker House

309 Hernando Street

Private. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

Located across the street from Clayborn Temple AME Church, this two-story frame Victorian house, built c. 1890, was once typical of many homes built in this neighborhood. As huge crowds began to gather between the church and house for the demonstrations in March 1968, the Baker House was involved with the events of the Sanitation Workers Strike. It has been restored.

7. Clayborn Temple AME Church

290 Hernando Street

www.claybornreborn.org
Visits may be arranged through the Clayborn Temple website.

The African Methodist Episcopal church moved into this Romanesque Revival building in 1949. Within 10 years, it was a center for strategy meetings during the Civil Rights Movement. During the 1968 Sanitation Workers Strike, it was ground zero for the daily demonstration marches and the place where Civil Rights leaders planned their activities. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led his final march for the Sanitation Strike from Clayborn on March 28 with marchers carrying "I AM A MAN" signs. Days later, thousands at Clayborn attended the funeral of Larry Payne, an African American teen killed by police during the march. For the next 30 years the church served as an annual reconciliation center for the anniversary of Dr. King's assassination. After years of neglect, Clayborn Temple is being revitalized into multi-use community space.

8. St. Patrick's Catholic Church
277 S. Fourth Street

Private. Open for tours by appointment with church.

This c. 1905 Romanesque Revival church was purchased by the Paulist Fathers' mission in 1954 for their work in Memphis. During the 1968 Sanitation Workers Strike, the building provided spaces for strikers to eat and congregate, and the church donated funds to support strikers and their families. In later decades, as the surrounding neighborhood declined, the Paulists turned their attention to urban education, sobriety programs, and affordable housing.

BUSINESS-ENTERTAINMENT HISTORIC LOOP

9. Orpheum Theater
203 S. Main Street

www.orpheum-memphis.com
Box office open Monday-Friday.
Visits may be arranged through website.

This c. 1928 landmark theater—once called the "Music Hall of the South"—faces the Beale Street entertainment district, the source of so many of the artists and performers who have graced its stage over the decades. The Orpheum has done it all: vaudeville shows, dramas, Broadway shows, classical music, and jazz from legends such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington. Despite African American performers providing much of the entertainment, segregation of the theater forced African American audiences to use side doors and sit in the balcony. The architects were the famed theater experts Rapp and Rapp of Chicago. The Walk of Fame in front of the theater includes such famous Memphis musicians as Rufus Thomas and Isaac Hayes.

10. Tri-State Bank
180 S. Main Street

Private and closed. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

Dr. J. E. Walker, founder of Universal Life Insurance, and his son A. Maceo Walker opened the first Tri-State Bank in 1946 south of this location, on Beale Street. Tri-State filled the financial void left from the pre-Depression failure of earlier banks, and in its first 10 years, helped over 2,000 African American families purchase homes. During the Civil Rights Movement, sit-ins were planned at the bank and the vault kept open at night to provide bail money for protesters. Tri-State Bank moved to this lot in 1965 and operated for 50 years before selling the building in 2016. The bank currently operates several branches throughout Memphis.

11. The Cotton Museum

65 Union Avenue

www.memphiscottonmuseum.org
Open daily. Admission charged.

Located in the historic Memphis Cotton Exchange building, this museum examines the rise of Memphis as the center of a global cotton economy, the labor it required, the reliance on the adjacent Mississippi River, and the distinct regional culture that developed as a result. Along with its cotton markets, Memphis was a major slave trade center in the mid-19th century, and slave markets and auctions operated regularly in the city in the years before Emancipation.

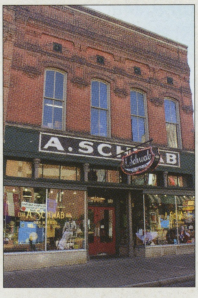
12. Church Hotel and Saloon

Corner of Gayoso and Second Streets

Robert Church Sr.'s hotel and saloon once stood at Gayoso and South Second Street. It provided the most modern accommodations to African American travelers who were prohibited from patronizing white-owned hotels. Carefully located near the river and Beale Street, the hotel had large rooms, fine dining, and exclusive services, increasing the appeal of Memphis as a destination for business and leisure.

Beale Street Historic District

This National Historic Landmark was a hotbed for African American land ownership, entrepreneurship, and community with the establishment of several businesses, a Freedman's Bank, and churches after the Civil War. With Robert Church Park and Auditorium, theaters, night clubs, and stores, the 15-block area became known as the "Main Street of Negro America," where African Americans came to entertain and be entertained, shop, and strategize for civil rights. The energy of Beale Street shaped musicians such as W.C. Handy and B.B. King, earning the area's nickname "Home of the Blues." The liveliness of the district declined mid-century and the city razed hundreds of buildings in the late 1960s. The city has since reinvested in the area as an entertainment district and tourist destination.



13. A Schwab's

163 Beale Street

Private. Open daily during business hours.

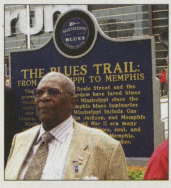
This landmark building was one of the few standing after urban renewal projects destroyed much of Beale Street in 1969. It is the oldest building on Beale Street. Established by Jewish immigrant Abraham Schwab in 1876, the mercantile store sold everything from clothing and dry goods to blues records and voodoo supplies. Through all the changes Beale Street experienced from the 1960s to the end of the century, the Schwab family continued to operate the store as a downtown institution and Beale Street museum until it was sold to new owners in 2011. A collection of historic artifacts remains on display on the upper level.

14. Historic Hooks Brothers Studio on Beale

162 Beale Street (second floor)

Private business (Absinthe Pool Room). Visits may be arranged through King's Palace Café.

Henry Hooks and Robert Hooks established their photography studio on the second floor in 1907, with windows overlooking Beale Street's action. The brothers documented daily life and some of the most formative people and events in Memphis history such as W.C. Handy and the NAACP. One of the only photos known to exist of Robert Johnson, an integral but mysterious blues music artist, was taken here by the Hooks brothers. Henry and Robert were the sons of Memphis Civil Rights activists Julia and Charles Hooks. Robert was the father of Benjamin Hooks, who was executive director of the national NAACP, first African American criminal court judge, and the first African American board member of the Federal Communications Commission.



15. Blues Trail: Mississippi to Memphis Historical Marker

B.B. King Boulevard by FedEx Forum

The development and evolution of the blues occurred irrespective of state lines as musicians moved towards opportunity and were exposed to new sounds and people. The intersection of B.B. King Boulevard (historic 3rd Avenue) and Beale Street was long considered the northern gateway into the Mississippi Delta. The marker recognizes the migration of musicians from Mississippi to Memphis. The Mississippi Blues Trail touches nine states, France, and Norway.

16. Rock 'n' Soul Museum

191 Beale Street

www.memphisrocknsoul.org
Open daily. Admission charged.

Created through a collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, this museum explores the development and global influence of blues, gospel, rock 'n' roll, rockabilly, and soul music.

17. W.C. Handy Park

200 Beale Street

Public. Open during daylight.

Musician and composer W.C. Handy spent 15 of the most important years in his career in Memphis, leaving an immeasurable impact on the city's blues and jazz traditions. Dedicated in 1931 as a homage to the "Father of the Blues," this outdoor amphitheater hosts free music and concerts. The park features a statue of Handy, installed in 1960. Famed gospel singer Mahalia Jackson performed at the dedication ceremony.

18. Historic Daisy Theater/ Randle Catron Interpretive Center

329 Beale Street

Open Wednesday–Friday.
No admission charged.

During the Jim Crow segregation era, African Americans could only sit in the front rows for movies at their own theaters. The two historic Daisy Theaters on Beale Street are excellent examples of the small movie houses that catered to African Americans. Italian immigrant Sam Zerilla opened the first Daisy Theater c. 1913. The movie theater hosted the 1929 red carpet premiere of *St. Louis Blues*, with Bessie Smith and W.C. Handy in attendance. It also hosted live performances, including musicians on the Chitlin' Circuit. The Zerilla family opened the larger "New Daisy" across the street in 1942. It remains an active music venue today.

19. Withers Collection Museum and Gallery

333 Beale Street

www.thewitherscollection.com
Open Tuesday–Sunday; closed Monday.
Admission charged.

This was the last working studio of Ernest C. Withers, a world-renowned photojournalist from Memphis and one of the first African Americans placed on the city police force. Over his 60-year career, Withers took an estimated 1.8 million pictures depicting African American life and culture in the South, including Civil Rights events, famous musicians, and African American athletes. He published a photo pamphlet of the murder of Emmitt Till following the trial, helping draw attention to the incident. He is best known for the iconic "I AM A MAN" photo taken during the 1968 Sanitation Workers Strike.

20. W.C. Handy House Museum

352 Beale Street

www.wchandymemphis.org
Open Tuesday–Saturday.
Admission charged.

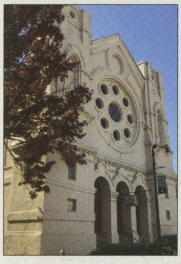
During 1912–18, W.C. and Elizabeth Price Handy lived with their children in this shotgun house originally located at 659 Jeanette Place. While living here, he composed "Beale Street Blues," "Yellow Dog Blues," and "St. Louis Blues." The house was moved to Beale Street in 1983 and transformed into a museum operated by Heritage Tours, a local African American-owned tourism company.

HISTORIC COMMERCE LOOP

21. Solvent Savings Bank
386 Beale Street

Private and closed. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

In 1906, Robert Church Sr. founded Memphis' first African American-owned bank. The ability to obtain loans on fair terms expanded opportunities for education and home ownership, with the bank especially catering to entrepreneurs. By 1921, it was among the largest African American banks in the country. In 1927, Solvent merged with the Fraternal Savings Bank and Trust, which failed amid controversy a year later, devastating African Americans in Memphis. W.C. Handy's publishing company was located on the second floor of the building. The Walker family of the Universal Life Insurance Co. opened Tri-State Bank here in 1946.



22. Historic First Baptist Beale Street Church
379 Beale Street

Private. Open for tours by appointment with church.

This c. 1869–85 Gothic structure is the oldest brick African American church building in Tennessee. Erected by the first African American Baptist congregation in Memphis, the imposing building was a symbol of religious independence from white control and reflected the collective will and resources of newly freed people. The Rev. Taylor Nightingale and Ida B. Wells published *The Free Speech and Headlight*, an African American newspaper, in the basement. A split in the original congregation c. 1894 led the First Baptist Church congregation to relocate about a mile away on Lauderdale Street, while Beale Street Baptist remained in this building.

23. Robert R. Church Park
Corner of Beale and Fourth Streets

Public. Open during daylight.

In 1899, Robert Church Sr. established this private park for African Americans in reaction to the increasing Jim Crow segregation that denied African Americans access to public parks and other venues. Church Park became a haven for arts, leisure, and celebration. It included a playground, bandstand, and modern 2,200-seat auditorium that hosted graduations, political rallies, festivals, and notable guests such as Louis Armstrong and President Theodore Roosevelt. W.C. Handy led the orchestra and developed his blues style here, creating much of the energy that drew musicians to Beale Street. Columns surrounding a memorial to Robert Church Sr. mark the footprint of the original auditorium.

24. Zion Hall
435 Beale Street

The congregation built its Franklin Street church in 1959. An empty parking lot is all that is left of one of the city's most influential post-Civil War African American institutions. The United Sons of Zion, one of the oldest African American fraternal organizations in Memphis (est. 1867), owned Zion Hall, a venue that provided a large meeting space for various groups, including African American Republicans who met here in mass to strategize political tickets. As a form of social uplift, the United Sons of Zion provided proper burials for African American Memphians. In the 1870s, the group helped establish Zion Cemetery, the oldest African American cemetery in Memphis (located in the 1400 block of South Parkway East). Covering 15 acres, Zion Cemetery is the resting place for nearly 30,000 black Memphians. The cemetery provided a burial place for victims of the 1878 Yellow Fever epidemic and is the resting place for three businessmen lynched during the infamous Curve Lynchings of 1892. Several prominent community members, including Georgia Patton Washington, Charles and Julia Hooks, and Thomas F. Cassels, also are buried there.

25. R.Q. Venson Center
439 Beale Street

Private. Exterior view from sidewalk.

The Memphis Housing Authority operates this c. 1970s building named after prominent Memphians Dr. R.Q. and Mrs. Ethyl Venson. During the Great Depression, the Vensons co-founded the Cotton Makers Jubilee in response to the racially segregated Memphis Cotton Carnival. In 1966, Ethyl Venson was the first African American and first woman appointed to the MHA Board, where she advocated for public, low-rent housing in all areas of the city. In 2012, the building underwent renovations as part of a larger project to update public housing units in Memphis.

26. AFSCME Local 1733
485 Beale Street

Private. Exterior view from sidewalk.

The local branch of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees labor union was established in 1964. After a failed strike attempt in 1966, the AFSCME played an integral role in the 1968 Sanitation Workers Strike after two workers were crushed in a garbage truck. The union's involvement helped bring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Memphis in the interest of his national Poor People's Campaign. Eventually, AFSCME helped the 1,300 sanitation workers reach a settlement with the city, resulting in union recognition, pay increases, and a structured grievance policy.

27. Hunt-Phelan House

533 Beale Street

www.huntphelan.com
Private. Visits may be arranged through website.

A remnant of the affluent antebellum neighborhood on Beale Avenue, this site of enslavement became one of hope when Union troops gained control of Memphis in 1862. Gen. Ulysses Grant set up his headquarters in this c. 1832 Greek Revival-style house as thousands of formerly enslaved people flocked to the city seeking refuge. The house served as a hospital and lodge for wounded Union soldiers and later a Freedmen's Bureau school for newly freed African Americans. President Andrew Johnson restored ownership to William Hunt in 1865.

28. Universal Life Insurance Building

480 Linden Avenue

Private. Some spaces in the building are open during business hours.

Dr. Joseph Walker founded Universal Life in 1923 to provide professional jobs and financial resources to African Americans in Memphis. The company hired Nashville-based McKissack & McKissack, the first African American-owned architectural firm in the state, to build this Egyptian Revival building in 1949. With a public cafeteria and meeting spaces, it became a gathering place for celebrations, political rallies, and strategy sessions during the Civil Rights Movement. Self+Tucker Architects purchased the building and restored it as a multi-use business center.

29. Mt. Olive Cathedral CME Church

538 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue

Private. Open by appointment with church.

This c. 1905 neoclassical building became a conspicuous gathering place for the Civil Rights Movement after the historic congregation moved here in the early 1950s. One of the congregation's pastors, Henry C. Bunton, was a leader in the Ministers' Alliance of the CME Church, a political action wing organized in response to the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. In 1960, the NAACP held mass strategy meetings here after the arrest of LeMoyne and Owen college students who staged a sit-in at a whites-only public library in Memphis. The NAACP still holds meetings here today.

30. R.S. Lewis & Sons Funeral Home

374 Vance Avenue

Private. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

As the struggle for civil rights grew more violent, local African American funeral directors often provided Civil Rights leaders discreet transportation to and from events for personal safety. Lewis & Son provided the chauffer for King's last trip to Memphis. Thousands came to the funeral home to view King's body the morning after his death. Robert Lewis began this business in 1914 and later also funded the Lewis Park Stadium for the Memphis Red Sox, a Negro League baseball team. In 2012, Tyrone Burroughs purchased the business and operates it today.

31. Dr. McCleave Clinic—demolished

475 Vance Avenue

Private. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

Located in the heart of south Memphis, the Dr. McCleave Clinic once stood as the business and residence of Dr. Benjamin McCleave and Florence Talbert McCleave. Benjamin, who graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, had a flourishing medical practice. His wife, Florence, was a classically trained opera singer who gained international fame as the first African American to perform the title role in Verdi's opera *Aida* in Italy.

32. Former Robert R. Church Mansion—demolished

384 S. Lauderdale Street at corner of Vance Avenue

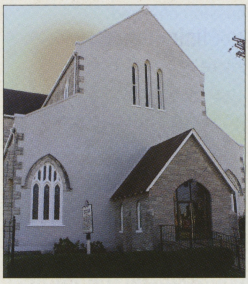
Symbolizing the potential of African American wealth and influence in the late Reconstruction era, the Church mansion was an imposing, three-story Victorian home built in the 1880s for freedman Robert R. Church, a wealthy businessman, politician, and philanthropist considered the South's first African American millionaire. He helped transform Beale Street into a commercial district for African Americans, and in 1899, he established Church Park and Auditorium to provide recreation space. He also helped found Solvent Savings Bank and Trust, the first black-owned and -operated bank in Memphis. Two of Robert Church's children, Mary Church Terrell and Robert Church Jr., became prominent figures in their own right. In 1953, firefighters burned the empty mansion for an equipment demonstration.

33. Cornelia Crenshaw Library

531 Vance Avenue

Public.

In 1939, the city of Memphis opened the Vance Avenue Library, the first city library open to African Americans until 1960 when the city integrated facilities. In 1978, a fire destroyed the building along with collections of local African American history. It was rebuilt in 1981. The library was renamed in 1997 for Civil Rights activist Cornelia Crenshaw. Known for her activism on behalf of low-income Memphians, Crenshaw successfully pushed Memphis Light, Gas, and Water to accept partial payments from poor residents to avoid having their basic utilities cut off. The library remains a busy neighborhood center.



34. Mt. Nebo Baptist Church

555 Vance Avenue

Private. Open by appointment with church.

The Mt. Nebo Baptist Church moved into this striking c. 1896 Gothic building in 1939 and soon became an anchor in the community. Under the leadership of the Rev. Roy Love, a minister and activist, the building became a meeting place for the Ministers and Citizens League, a nondenominational group that worked to register African American voters during the Civil Rights Movement.

35. NAACP Memphis Branch

588 Vance Avenue

Private. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

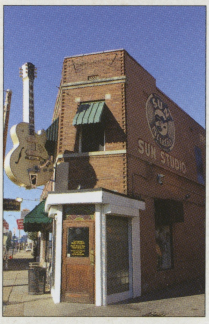
After the lynching of Ell Persons, Robert Church Jr. established a Memphis NAACP chapter in 1917, the first one in the state. This branch was integral to Tennessee's Civil Rights Movement, demanding direct action and organizing local protests, including the Sanitation Workers Strike of 1968. As Memphis branch leader, Maxine Smith ignited the 1969 Black Monday campaign to totally integrate city schools. The branch had offices on and near Beale Street before moving into this former bank building. While the Memphis branch partnered with local churches to orchestrate mass meetings, the discreet office spaces provided a trusting atmosphere for African Americans to report discrimination and assault and seek legal advice.

36. Golden Gate Funeral Home

734 Vance Avenue

Private. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

This two-story yellow brick building is one of the city's remaining historic African American funeral homes. During the era of Jim Crow segregation, African American entrepreneurs established funeral homes to serve their neighborhoods. Many have been demolished over the decades, but this one from the mid-20th century remains in business.



37. Sun Studio

706 Union Avenue

Open daily. Admission charged.

Sam Phillips began Sun Records here in 1952 to take advantage of the gospel, blues, country, hillbilly, and jazz sounds crossing over in Memphis. He was known for his support of local artists and willingness to record them, regardless of race or musical genre. This creative environment produced new sounds, and Sun soon introduced the world to rockabilly, music that mixed country and hillbilly with the drums and feeling of jazz and blues. Phillips recorded Howlin' Wolf, B.B. King, Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash, and other artists, producing a new wave of music that typified the fluid nature of Memphis' musical tradition.

38. Lauderdale Historic Homes (Uptown Square Apartments)

252 North Lauderdale Street

Private residences. Exterior view from sidewalk.

The Public Works Administration funded this 26-acre Colonial Revival-style, whites-only complex, and its African American counterpart, Dixie Homes (demolished; 2006, rebuilt and renamed Legends Park), as models of modern living with recreation facilities, clinics, and libraries, indicating how deeply racial segregation and the destruction of existing neighborhoods were intertwined with modern ideals. Elvis Presley and his family once lived in Lauderdale Courts. The complex was placed on the National Register in 1996. Renovations began in 1999.

HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL LOOP

39. St. Paul Historic District

700 block of St. Paul Avenue and 500 block of Boyd Street

Private. Exterior view from sidewalk.

The houses at 764 St. Paul Ave. and 558 Boyd St. are remnants of a fashionable, 19th-century African American neighborhood once considered a suburb on the edge of the city. As the Memphis population grew in the early 20th century and industries began locating within walking distance of the area, developers filled empty lots with these inexpensive, multi-family shotgun homes first inhabited by white laborers. As white residents began leaving the area mid-century, African Americans became the primary residents.

40. Boyd Street Historic Homes

500 block of Boyd Street

Private. Exterior view from sidewalk.

The Craftsman, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival homes along Boyd Street represent eclectic 19th-century architecture often used by upper-class Americans to reflect their social status. These single-family homes on large lots stand in distinct contrast to the nearby shotgun houses built for low-income whites a few decades later. Now occupied by Karat Place, a local nonprofit that helps incarcerated women find homes, the house at 558 Boyd St. remains an important symbol for the community.

41. Foote Homes Redevelopment

Between Mississippi Boulevard and South Lauderdale Street

Private. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

Foote Homes was a 46-acre, New Deal-era public housing project built for African Americans in 1940. To make room for this new housing, the city of Memphis demolished thriving neighborhoods, including the properties of the First Colored Baptist Church and Howe Institute, resulting in the displacement of over 400 African American families and 16 white families. Nearly 80 years later, Foote Homes was revitalized into a new, mixed-income and multi-use development now known as South City.

42. Cleaborn Pointe at Heritage Landing

S. Lauderdale Street at St. Paul Avenue

Private residences. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

Built in 1955 to complement Foote Homes, Cleaborn Homes provided housing for thousands of African Americans for nearly 60 years. In an effort to improve housing and decrease concentrations of poverty, federal grants funded the demolition of Cleaborn Homes and the construction of mixed-use developments. The new development, known as Cleaborn Pointe at Heritage Landing, has recently opened.

43. Paradise Entertainment Center (formerly Club Paradise)

645 E. Georgia Avenue

Private. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

Entertainment entrepreneur Andrew "Sunbeam" Mitchell opened Club Paradise on the south side of Memphis in 1962. It was the largest and most luxurious nightclub in the city, attracting top blues and soul talent, including B.B. King, Ike and Tina Turner, Count Basie, Aretha Franklin, Bobby Rush, and Isaac Hayes. The club closed in 1999, but has since been revitalized as a community and event space.

44. Temple Church of God in Christ

672 S. Lauderdale Street

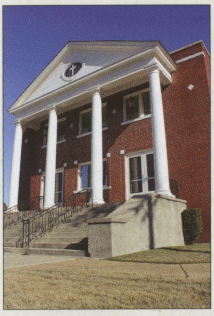
Private. Open for tours by appointment with church.

Bishop Charles Harrison Mason founded the Church of God in Christ c. 1900 in Memphis. Fondly known as the "Mother Temple," this location served as the COGIC national headquarters while the Mason Temple was being rebuilt during World War II. The original building in this location burned in 1958. The current building was constructed in its place in 1961, around the time Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr. steered COGIC toward an active role in the Civil Rights Movement. Many members of this congregation were workers involved in the 1968 Sanitation Workers Strike.

45. T.H. Hayes & Sons Funeral Home—demolished

680 S. Lauderdale Street; lot adjacent to First Baptist Lauderdale

When African American entreprenuer Thomas Hayes began the business in 1902, he served the elite and also extended credit to poorer customers, providing affordable, state-of-the-art funeral services to African American Memphians regardless of class. Frances Laster Hayes, his daughter-in-law, worked here as one of the earliest African American female funeral directors. The large house Hayes remodeled to accommodate the business was demolished in 2011.



46. First Baptist Church Lauderdale

682 S. Lauderdale Street

Private. Visits may be arranged by appointment with church.

The Rev. Thomas O. Fuller led his congregation to build this landmark Colonial Revival building in 1939 at a busy intersection after the city demolished their building on St. Paul Avenue for a New Deal housing project. Under his leadership, the c. 1854 congregation became the "mother church" for most Baptist congregations in Memphis. The NAACP held meetings here during the Civil Rights Movement, and the 1951 expansion of the building included spaces solely dedicated to community education and outreach. The congregation also contributed to Memphis' musical heritage by sponsoring traveling musicians such as James Hyter and Dr. Leroy Van Johnson. The congregation has sponsored an annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* for decades.

47. Booker T. Washington High School

715 S. Lauderdale Street

Private. Visits may be arranged through offices at city school board.

Originally named the Clay Street School (1867), then Kortrecht High School (1891), this institution was the first to provide a high school education to African American Memphians. The band and amateur theater contributed to Memphis' arts legacy by providing young talent opportunities to develop. Notable alumni include Maurice White, Rufus Thomas, the Bar-Kays, and Booker T. Jones. In 2011, President Barack Obama delivered the school's commencement address for winning the Race to the Top Commencement Award for increasing graduation rates by 30 percent.

48. George W. Lee Post Office Building

826 Mississippi Boulevard

Private. Exterior view from public street.

To build Republican support in Memphis, President Dwight Eisenhower's administration built this post office in 1956. The building was named for Lt. George Washington Lee, an African American Republican and businessman who expanded opportunities for African American entrepreneurship and social uplift through involvement with local banks, insurance companies, the NAACP, and the Urban League. The dedication ceremony was a local kickoff for the 1956 presidential campaign, with Lee going on to play an active role in moving African Americans in Memphis to vote for Eisenhower. In 1934, he authored *Beale Street: Where the Blues Began*, making him one of the earliest historians of black culture in Memphis. The building now houses a business.

49. Site of Martin's Stadium (Home of the Memphis Red Sox)

Crump Boulevard at S. Lauderdale Street

Private. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

This busy commercial business was once home to an important ballpark. While most African American sports teams used facilities when white teams were on the road, Robert Lewis funded the building of Lewis Park, the first African American-owned ballpark in the Negro League, for the Memphis Red Sox. The Martin family purchased the baseball stadium and renamed it in 1927. The Sox played here for several decades before dissolving in the 1950s. The space also hosted football games, track meets, and political rallies. The stadium was demolished in the 1960s.

50. Mason Temple

938 Mason Street

Open to the public Monday–Friday. No admission charged.

The Church of God in Christ, led by founder C.H. Mason, secured a steel appropriation in World War II to complete the Art Moderne-style Mason Temple, the national headquarters of the organization. COGIC's ability to obtain supplies during wartime indicated national political clout that carried local influence. This symbol of political strength became a mass meeting center during the Civil Rights Movement, where activists held freedom rallies and fundraising meetings. During the 1968 Sanitation Workers Strike, an eight-hour gospel-singing marathon was held here to raise money for the strikers. Nearly a month later, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "Mountaintop" speech at Mason Temple the night before he was assassinated.

51. Lelia Mason Hall

Mason Street

Open with appointment.

Named for C.H. Mason's wife, Lelia Mason Hall was built in 1934 as a women's dormitory for the Church of God in Christ annual convention. When the current Mason Temple was being built in the 1940s, COGIC remodeled Lelia Hall, adding features that reflected the Art Moderne style of the temple. One of six buildings in the COGIC's international headquarters complex, the building now houses the organization's national archives.

52. Mason Village

Crump Boulevard and Fourth Avenue

Private residences. Exterior view from public sidewalk.

Mason Village is a joint affordable housing collaboration between the Church of God in Christ and the City of Memphis that seeks to provide housing to those displaced by the recent demolition and redevelopment of public housing projects. The project will include 77 residential units and community spaces.

Other sites of interest

Cossitt Library, 33 S. Front St.
The city's first public library is open daily.

Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum, 826 N. Second St.
Interprets the era of slavery and the role of free blacks in antebellum Memphis. *Open daily except Sundays. Admission charged.*

Joe C. Warren House, 968 Meagher St.
The shotgun-style home of a Sanitation Strike participant. *Public, to be opened in 2018.*

Tom Lee House, 923 Mansfield St.
During a 1925 boat accident on the Mississippi River, Lee saved 30 people from drowning and became a national hero. *Private. Exterior view from public sidewalk.*

Aretha Franklin Birthplace, 406 Lucy Ave.
The Queen of Soul was born in this humble shotgun-style house in 1942. *Private. Exterior view from public street.*

I Am A Man Plaza
Located near Clayborn Temple, this art installation honors the 1968 Sanitation Workers' fight for economic justice.

MLK Reflection Park
Located at MLK Boulevard and 2nd Street, this park allows visitors to reflect upon Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy in their own lives.

Soulsville USA
This South Memphis neighborhood is most noted as the home of Stax Records and the birthplace of soul.

Orange Mound
Founded in 1890, this is one of the first subdivisions in the U.S. established for African Americans. It is a designated Preserve America Community.

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